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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /207 W
---------- 078541
R 260825Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8378
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15326

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR JA VN
SUBJ: JAPAN-DRV RELATIONS

REF: A. TOKYO 13261 (NOTAL) B. TOKYO 13275 (NOTAL)
C. TOKYO 14695

1. FONOFF (FIRST SE ASIA DIV HEAD HANABUSA) TOLD EMBASSY
THAT FONOFF BELIEVES HANOI HAS NO INTENTION OF OPENING
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EMBASSY IN TOKYO OR ALLOWING JAPAN TO OPEN ITS EMBASSY IN

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HANOI UNTIL BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONFIRM JAPAN'S "GOOD WILL" TOWARD THE DRV. AS TACTIC IN DRV STRATEGY, HANOI HAS REFUSED TO GIVE VISAS TO GOJ'S TWO REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED IN VIENTIANE, WHOM GOJ UNILATERALLY "ACCREDITED" TO HANOI (REFS A AND B).

2. GOJ HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HANOI, THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, TO INITIATE BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HANABUSA EXPECTS DISCUSSIONS TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER IN VIENTIANE RATHER THAN PARIS. ALTHOUGH DRV MAY TRY TO INTERJECT ISSUE OF GOJ RECOGNITION OF PRG, FONOFF EXPECTS BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO CONCENTRATE ON JAPANESE AID TO DRV FOR RECONSTRUCTION. HANABUSA DREW EMBOFF'S ATTENTION TO INTERVIEW IN NOV 22 MAINICHI OF NGUYEN VAN CHAN (MEMBER OF SECRETARIAT OF LAO DONG PARTY, FIRST SECRETARY OF HANOI PARTY COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF DRV NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE) WHO ATTENDED JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY 12TH CONGRESS. LENGTHY INTERVIEW QUOTED CHAN'S STRESSING DRV NEEDS IN OVERCOMING SHORTAGES OF RICE, MEAT, SUGAR; RECONSTRUCTING HOUSING IN HANOI, WHICH CHAN SAID WAS ONE FOURTH DESTROYED IN '72 BOMBING RAIDS; AND BUILDING CLASSROOMS. CHAN SAID LABOR WAS PLENTIFUL SINCE "SOLDIERS WERE RETURNING FROM THE FRONT", RESOURCES WERE ADEQUATE BUT FOREIGN FUNDS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE WERE REQUIRED. CHAN SAID DRV WOULD ACCEPT JAPAN'S AID, "IF OFFERED ON BASIS OF EQUALITY, RECIPROCAL BENEFIT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS." HANABUSA REGARDS CHAN'S REMARKS AS "AUTHORITATIVE". IN CONTRAST, HANABUSA DESCRIBED PUBLIC REMARKS IN TOKYO AND HANOI BY HOANG QUOC VIET, ACTING CHAIRMAN FATHERLAND FRONT, (REF C) AS "NONSENSE". HE ASSUMED HOANG'S HARD-LINE REMARKS WERE DESIGNED TO PLEASE HIS CLIENTS, THE PRG.

3. COMMENT: MINOR EMBARRASSMENTS SUCH AS HONOI'S UN-WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE VISAS TO JAPANESE ENVOYS, MAY DEMONSTRATE TO GOJ THAT HANOI IS WILIER THAN IT HAD REALIZED. INCLUSION OF 5 BILLION YEN IN SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET REQUEST (SEPTEL) FOR DRV AND PROSPECTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN VIENTIANE, SHOULD CONVINCE HANOI OF JAPAN'S "GOOD WILL". FLURRY OF JAPANESE BUSINESS' INTEREST IN NVN SHOULD ALSO BOLSTER IMPRESSION THAT JAPAN MAY BE A FORTHCOMING SOURCE OF AID
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AND INVESTMENT DESPITE NVN'S ACTIVITIES IN SVN SHORT OF MAJOR MILITARY PUSH. JAPAN'S IMAGE AS BENEFACTOR TO BOTH SIDES REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY OF THE RECIPIENT WILL BE BURNISHED ALTHOUGH THIS "BALANCED" DIPLOMACY MAY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN OTHER SE ASIAN COUNTRIES WHERE ASSISTANCE TO HANOI IS REGARDED UNFAVORABLY.
SHOESMITH

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